To: David Allison <allison@NMAH.SI.EDU>, jubois
From: Brewster Kahle <brewster@archive.org>
Subject: Press Release
Cc: archive96
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY TRACKS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
PROCESS
FROM A WEB PERSPECTIVE

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History announces Web
Archive
'96, a program affiliated with The Internet Archive of San Francisco,
California, to record and track the 1996 presidential election as it
appears in documentation on the World Wide Web.

Museum Director Spencer Crew issued a formal invitation to all major
candidates to help in this endeavor. Dr. Crew said, "We want the
candidates to document their hopes for this new medium and their
strategies
for using it to their fullest advantage. At the conclusion of this
year's
election, we will invite the candidates to the National Museum of
American
History to review--for the record--how they believe the Web is
affecting
American political life."

To preserve samples from the World Wide Web, the Smithsonian will
collaborate with the Internet Archive. Brewster Kahle, founder and
president of the Archive said, "We are working with the Internet
community
to preserve all public information on the internet, which currently is
estimated to be in the one to ten terabyte range. The goal is to
provide a
memory for otherwise perishable resources." Jeff Ubois, project
director
continued, "The Archive will work with National Museum of American
History
political history specialists, curators and other staff who will play a
key
role in assisting in the transformation of campaign ephemera into a
permanent, searchable record."

Assisting in the project will be: the Forefront Group, which donated

its
WebWhacker software; the Internet 1996 World Exposition, which donated
a
tape robot; and Large Storage Configurations, Inc. which provided tape
robot management software.

Web Archive '96 will include not only candidate's sites, but also other
sites commenting on the election. Further details and samples from the
Archive are available on the World Wide Web at http://www.archive.org.
In
the future, the campaign information will be deposited in the
Smithsonian
Institution archives and used in exhibits and in electronic displays on
the
Smithsonian web site (http://www.si.edu).